

## UTILITIES DIVISION[199]

### Notice of Intended Action

**Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”**

**Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.**

Pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.4, 476.1A, and 476.2, the Utilities Board (Board) gives notice that on June 22, 2011, the Board issued an order in Docket No. RMU-2011-0004, In re: Amendment to Outage Notification Requirements for Electric Utilities [199 IAC 20.19], “Order Commencing Rule Making.” Under current rules, an electric utility is required to notify the Board when it becomes apparent that a service outage will cause customers to be without electric service for more than two hours and the outage meets the other requirements in rule 199—20.19(476,478). If adopted, the proposed amendment would change the projected length of the outage to six hours before Board notification is required.

The outage notification requirements have been established to provide the Board with timely information on loss of electric service to customers that may be useful to emergency management agencies in providing for the welfare of Iowa citizens. The Board is proposing the change because of experience with the current requirement for reporting anticipated loss of service of more than two hours, which has demonstrated that many reports are received that do not need to be forwarded to emergency management agencies. After consultation with some utilities, the Board has determined that changing the requirement to notification when loss of service is expected to last for more than six hours will eliminate the less significant outage reports and will still allow the Board to coordinate with emergency management agencies for those outages that may require additional action.

The Board is also proposing to change the phrase “when it becomes apparent” to “when it is projected” to ensure that utility personnel understand that the Board should be notified as soon as utility personnel have sufficient information to project that an outage will last longer than six hours. Currently, some utilities wait to notify the Board until just before the two-hour time limit even if they were reasonably certain the outage would be reportable shortly after the outage began.

The order commencing rule making issued by the Board can be found on the Board’s Web site, [www.iub.iowa.gov](http://www.iub.iowa.gov).

Pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.4(1)“a” and “b,” any interested person may file a written statement of position pertaining to the proposed amendment. The statement must be filed on or before August 2, 2011. The statement should be filed electronically through the Board’s Electronic Filing System (EFS). Instructions for making an electronic filing can be found on the EFS Web site at <http://efs.iowa.gov>. Any person who does not have access to the Internet may file comments on paper pursuant to 199 IAC 14.4(5). An original and ten copies of paper comments must be filed. Both electronic and written filings shall comply with the format requirements in 199 IAC 2.2(2) and clearly state the author’s name and address and make specific reference to this docket. All paper communications should be directed to the Executive Secretary, Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069.

No oral presentation is scheduled at this time. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b,” an oral presentation may be requested or the Board on its own motion after reviewing the statements may determine that an oral presentation should be scheduled.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 476.1A, 476.2 and 17A.4.

The following amendment is proposed.

Amend subrule 20.19(1) as follows:

**20.19(1) Notification.** The notification requirements in subrules 20.19(1) and 20.19(2) are for the timely collection of electric outage information that may be useful to emergency management agencies in providing for the welfare of individual Iowa citizens. Each electric utility shall notify the board when it ~~becomes apparent~~ is projected that an outage may result in a loss of service for more than ~~two~~ six hours and the outage meets one of the following criteria:

*a.* For all utilities, loss of service for more than ~~two~~ six hours to substantially all of a municipality, including the surrounding area served by the same utility. A utility may use loss of service to 75 percent or more of customers within a municipality, including the surrounding area served by the utility, to meet this criterion;

*b.* For utilities with 50,000 or more customers, loss of service for more than ~~two~~ six hours to 20 percent of the customers in a utility's established zone or loss of service to more than 5,000 customers in a metropolitan area, whichever is less;

*c.* For utilities with more than 4,000 customers and fewer than 50,000 customers, loss of service for more than ~~two~~ six hours to 25 percent or more of the utility's customers;

*d.* No change.

*e.* Any other outage considered significant by the electric utility. This includes loss of service for more than ~~two~~ six hours to significant public health and safety facilities known to the utility at the time of the notification, even when the outage does not meet the criteria in paragraphs 20.19(1) "*a*" through "*d*."